BIRDS·HILL

PROVINCIAL·PARK

Manitoba
Natural Resources
Parks

Compiled and written by Cheryl Archer
Cover photo: J. Tallosi

Provincial Road
Provincial Trunk Highway
Road Under Construction
Note For further information on these sites call 945-3703
Selkirk
Lower Fort Garry National Historic Park
Kennedy House
St. Andrew's Church
St. Andrew's Rectory National Historic Park
Twin Oaks
Stone House
River Road Heritage Parkway
Marine Museum of Manitoba
To Grand Beach and Patricia Beach
St. Peter's Church Dynevor
Kanawayhum Visitor Centre and Museum
Hay House
Downtown Access
Birds Hill Provincial Park
Perimeter Highway
Winnipeg
(For information On City Heritage Sites Call 943-3777 Out of Town call 1-800-665-0040)
Portage Avenue
Assiniboine River
Main Street
Provincial Highway
Trans-Canada Highway
St. Norbert Provincial Heritage Park
Taché Home
Provencher Home
Trappist Monastery
La Salle River
0 1 2 3 4
km

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Natural Regions of Manitoba

1. Northern Transition Forest
2. Arctic Tundra
3. Hudson Bay Lowlands
4. Precambrian Boreal Forest
5. Manitoba Lowlands
6. Aspen/Oak Parkland
7. Western Upland
8. Souris Till Plain
9. Tall-grass Prairie
10. Turtle Mountain
11. Pembina/Tiger Hills
12. Assiniboine Delta

• Birds Hill Provincial Park

★ Winnipeg

A BIRTHDAY PARK FOR CANADA

Birds Hill Provincial Park was officially opened on July 15, 1967 to celebrate Canada's 100th birthday. Located adjacent to Provincial Trunk Highway 59 approximately 24 kilometres north of Winnipeg, the park is 3,350 hectares (33 km^2) in area.

Birds Hill's role in our system of Provincial Parks is to preserve a portion of the Aspen/Oak Parkland, one of the 12 natural landscape regions of Manitoba. The park is significant in our Province's history as the area was an important link in the settlement of the Red River Valley. While preserving important aspects of our natural and cultural history, the park also provides a diversity of recreational and educational opportunities.

Situated in Winnipeg's backyard, this prairie park serves as a doorway to the outdoors. This guide is intended to lead you through that doorway and help you discover the exciting features of Birds Hill Provincial Park.

Aspen/Oak Parkland landscape.

PARK HISTORY

Birds Hill Provincial Park was named after the Bird family who owned land in the area. The Bird family history is representative of those who settled along the Red River in the early 19th Century.

James Curtis Bird first came to Rupertsland in 1788 to become a writer with the Hudson's Bay Company. During his 36 years in service, James moved up in rank to become Chief Factor of the Red River District and by 1819 "he had more knowledge of the country than all its (the Hudson's Bay Company) officers put together."

When James retired in 1824 he received a land grant from the company of 1,245 acres on the east side of the Red River. Registered as river lot 95, the lot extended east for about four miles, taking in the hill area now known as the village of Birds Hill. On the banks of the Red, James built his home which came to be called "the White Cottage." The church was on the west side of the river so a carriage was kept on that side and crossings were made by canoe. The Red River served as the main transportation route at that time.

James Bird married several times, fathering 15 children. His youngest son,

Manitoba Archives

Residence of Chief Factor the late Mr. Bird, Middle Settlement c. 1857-58.

Curtis James, became a prominent member of the settlement. As well as practising medicine in the area and operating a drug store in the new city of Winnipeg, Dr. Bird was active politically, becoming the first speaker of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly in 1870. He was also a member of the first provincial Board of Education in 1871 and he was coroner at the time of the city's first murder. He died at the age of 38 after contracting pneumonia while on a trip to England.

The area that is now the park was referred to as "the Far Pines" or "Pine Ridge" by the Bird family, as well as the other English, Scottish and Irish immigrants that settled along the Red River. The river lots of those who settled north of the Bird property extended into what is now the western edge of the park. This area offered the settlers abundant game and a wealth of natural materials. Roof trusses and fences were built from the oak, ash, spruce, cedar and tamarack that were cut and hauled from here. It was here, too, that the settlers, fur traders and wildlife found refuge during the spring flooding of the Red River valley. During the great floods of 1826 and 1852, which threatened the very survival of the young colony, entire families camped with their livestock and possessions on the high points of land found in the park area.

Much of the present-day park was not settled until the late 1800's by immigrants from eastern Europe. One of the first groups was German Lutherans, who established a church opposite what is now the east park gate. The

Manitoba Archives

Curtis James Bird — 1870's

cemetery still remains at this spot. A large number of Polish and Ukrainian settlers also moved into the area. These settlers set out ambitiously to farm the land. When first broken, the soil was very productive for rye and potatoes. However, the soil's fertility decreased and, in the early 1900's, many of the settlers left in search of more lucrative trades.

One natural crop which has been successful over the years and is still harvested today is trees. Starting in 1890, cordwood was hauled to Winnipeg where it was used as fuel and building material. Later, three tree nurseries were established. Many of the planted trees in the park today are from those

J. Tallosi

nurseries. One nursery is still in operation along the northeast edge of the park.

In the early 1900's massive gravel and sand deposits, another natural material, were discovered in the area. This material was transported by train to the growing city of Winnipeg where it was valuable for building and road construction. Today, extracted sand and gravel continues to be used for the same purposes, as well as for the production of concrete and asphalt, as many of Manitoba's largest operators continue to quarry in the area.

The abundant supply of gravel was also used by local settlers. An old lime kiln in the northern part of the park beside the Lime Kiln Trail was operated until the 1930's by a local ferry operator, John Donald. Limestone gravel found nearby was burned in the kiln to make quick-lime, a building material used for white-wash, plaster, mortar and the treatment of sewage. The importance of this building material is evident in the structural formation of the old homestead in the southwestern area of the park. The walls of the house are made of logs plus the branches of local shrubs lathed diagonally to hold the plaster. White-wash was applied over the plaster on the interior walls for the finishing touch. The Kudlowich family built this house in 1936 and the barn and granary were constructed the following year with planks from an old railway car.

In the early 1960's the city of Winnipeg recognized the beauty of the Birds Hill area and contemplated a small regional park, 400 to 500 acres in size. The provincial government further examined the idea and as part of a major centennial program for the province, established Birds Hill Provincial Park in 1964. In the years that followed, work proceeded to complete the roadways, the man-made lake and the campground. The park was officially opened on July 15, 1967 to celebrate Canada's 100th birthday.

Today, the park continues to be a refuge as it once was for those Red River settlers more than 100 years ago. The precious habitats necessary for the survival of wildlife exist here and provide accommodation for a variety of animals and birds. People escaping the hustle and bustle of modern living can also find a peaceful refuge in Birds Hill Provincial Park.

Birds Hill's man-made lake was completed in 1964.

BIRDS HILL'S BURIED TREASURES

The Birds Hill landscape is a legacy of the Ice Age, a story told in gravel, boulders and grains of sand. These buried treasures have been the main source of aggregate material for the Winnipeg region during the past century.

As the massive sheets of ice retreated for the last time more than 11,000 years ago, the ice retreated to the present site of Winnipeg, then briefly halted. Debris such as clay, sand and gravel that was frozen into the ice many kilometres to the north was then dumped in the area as the ice slowly melted. The most noticeable of these glacial hitch-hikers are the boulders or erratics scattered throughout the park. These erratics are composed largely of Precambrian granite found north and east of the area.

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These large boulders found in the park were dropped here long ago by glaciers.

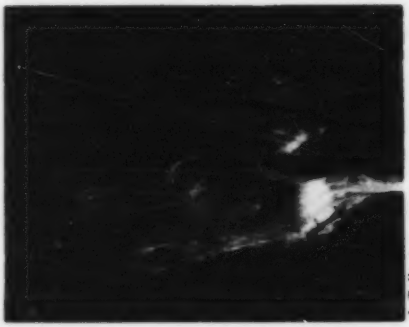
As the edge of the ice continued to stand near Winnipeg, the melt-water carved steep channels in the glacier. Water pouring through these ice tunnels left large quantities of coarse material behind while carrying finer materials into Lake Agassiz. By about 7,500 years ago when the ice had melted away and the water had drained into Hudson Bay, the coarse material remained as large sand and gravel ridges called eskers. It is believed that several eskers met and converged to form Birds Hill.

Take a drive along Garven Road (Provincial Road 213), south of the park and find the two large gravel ridges which intersect the road. These eskers converge in the park to the north. Notice also the large sand and gravel beds. Drill results indicate the deposits are 40 to 50 metres thick and an estimated 137 million tonnes of material had been removed by 1975.

The landscape of Birds Hill was further sculptured by Lake Agassiz — an extensive lake which was created as the tonnes of ice melted. About 10,000 years ago, this king of lakes was 350,000 square kilometres in size and covered Birds Hill to a depth of 120 metres. Further boulders were dropped here by icebergs melting and dumping their con-

tents onto the lake bottom. As the lake retreated, Birds Hill became an island. Whenever the level of the lake remained constant for several years, gravelly beaches two to three metres in height were formed along the edges of the island.

Today you can see evidence of these beach ridges along the Cedar Bog Self-guiding Trail or along the Ridge Trail, (just north of the group use area) where the elevation is 265 metres (or 870 feet). Standing at this scenic viewpoint 10,000 years ago, you would have been sprayed by the surf as the waves of Lake Agassiz hammered this beach ridge — the top step of a giant staircase.



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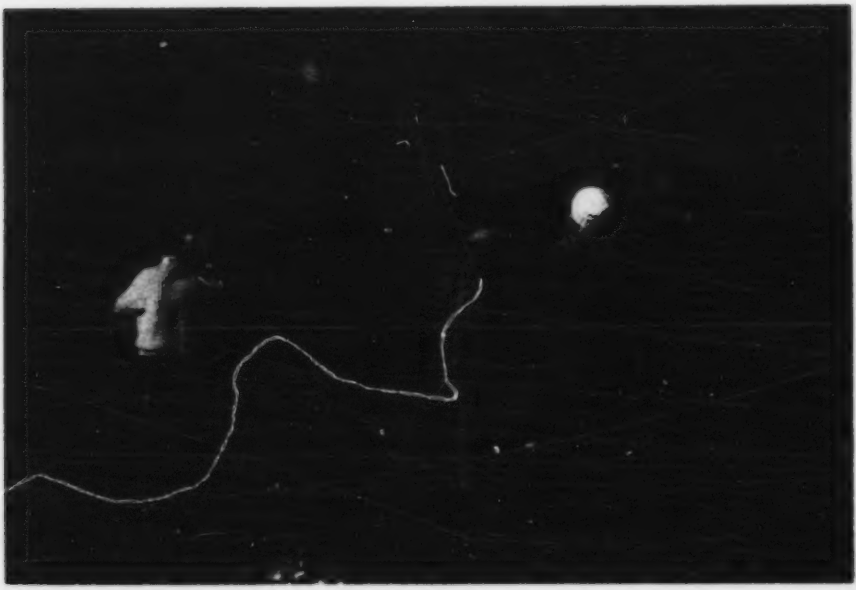
Massive sand and gravel deposits underlie the area and can be seen along Garven Road (Provincial Road 213) and in the park.



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A scenic view from the beach ridge along the Ridge Trail.

PLANTS

Looking around as you travel through the park, you will notice a tremendous diversity of vegetation. Throughout much of this prairie oasis, stands of trembling aspen are interspersed with patches of lush grassland and, in the higher, well-drained areas the gnarled bur oaks thrive. This combination of grasslands and forest is known as Aspen/Oak Parkland. Much of southern Manitoba was originally covered by this kind of vegetation. Because fire is strictly controlled in the park, aspen and oak are slowly encroaching on the grasslands. The patches of prairie that still remain, however, are reminders of the large grasslands that once covered this area.

In the more poorly drained areas of the park you will find tamarack/black spruce forests, muskegs and bogs, alder-willow shrublands, and an eastern white cedar bog. This diversity of plant communities provides the

J. Talbot

Aspen Parkland, the predominant vegetation at Birds Hill, provides habitat for a variety of wildlife.

habitats necessary to support a large variety of wildlife.

Some of the plants common in the park are listed below. Those with edible fruits are marked with an asterisk (*).

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Named after its leaf which trembles with the slightest breeze, trembling aspen is common in the park.

Trees

Deciduous

Balsam (or Black) Poplar
Bur (or Scrub) Oak
Eastern Cottonwood
Manitoba Maple (or Box Elder)
Trembling Aspen
(or White Poplar)
White (or Paper) Birch
White (or American) Elm

Coniferous

Black Spruce
Eastern White Cedar
Tamarack (or Larch)
White Spruce

Shrubs

*Beaked and American Hazel
Buffaloberry
*Chokecherry
Common and Dwarf Junipers
Downy Arrowwood
*Hawthorn
*Highbush Cranberry
*Nannyberry
*Pincherry
Red-oiser Dogwood
*Rose
*Saskatoon
Snowberry
Wild Currants
*Wild Plum
Willow

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Picking berries is a favourite pass-time in Birds Hill.

Wildflowers

Name	*Colour*	*Flowering Dates*
Marsh Marigold	Yellow	April - May
Early Blue Violet	Blue	April - May
Hoary Puccoon	Yellow/ Orange	April - June
Three-flowered Avens	Red/ Purple	April - June
Bearberry or Kinnickinick	White	April - June
Field Chickweed	White	May - June
Wild Lily-of-the-Valley	White	May - June
Golden Alexander	Yellow	May - June
Yellow Lady's-slipper	Yellow	June - July
Twining Honeysuckle	White	June - July
Canada Anemone	White	June - July
Wood or Prairie Lily	Orange Red	June - July
Wild Columbine	Red	June - July
Pussytoes	White	June - July
Blue-eyed Grass	Blue	June - July
Dewberry	Pink	June - July
Yarrow	White	June - August
Harebell	Blue	June - September
Giant Hyssop	Blue	July - August
Wild Bergamot	Pink	July - August
Northern Bedstraw	White	July - August
Goldenrod	Yellow	August - September
Asters	Violet/ White	August - October

T. Talbot

Wildflowers such as these three-flowered avens are to be enjoyed by all park visitors. Please help us to preserve them, do not pick them.

Even though it is illegal to pick wildflowers in Manitoba's Provincial Parks, special permission may be granted for research or educational purposes. Please contact the Park Office at 222-9151 with your requests. For further information on the vegetation found in this park please refer to the appropriate field guides available at your local bookstore or library.

Poison Ivy

Please watch out for poison ivy in the park. Brushing up against this plant causes it to rupture and release a poisonous sap that causes a painful and itchy skin rash. You can contract poison ivy during any time of the year and you may become more susceptible with continued exposure.

Avoid the dreaded "itch" by learning to recognize poison ivy and avoiding all parts of the plant. It most commonly grows in wooded areas and along the edges of clearings and paths. In the summer look for its groups of three shiny, bright green leaflets and clusters of tiny yellow-green flowers. The leaf edges are irregularly notched or toothed and the stem is woody. In fall the leaves turn a brilliant red and in winter you can recognize the plant by the cream-coloured and grooved berries clustered along its woody stem. Remember the saying, "leaves three — leave it be; berries white — a poisonous sight."

If you come in contact with poison ivy, wash the affected area with soap as soon as possible. This will prevent spreading the sap to uninfected areas and decrease the severity of the rash. You can also pick up the sap from foot-gear, clothing and the coat of your pet. Wash these thoroughly if you suspect they have been in contact with the plant. Never burn poison ivy as the smoke can cause severe reactions. To relieve the itch of the skin rash apply calamine lotion or hydrocortizone. Consult a physician for severe reactions.

Protect yourself from poison ivy, a common and easy to recognize plant in the park.

WILDLIFE

The diverse landscape of Birds Hill Provincial Park provides a variety of habitats for mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. When spring arrives, listen for the songs of the frogs and peepers as they serenade their mates. A rustle in the underbrush may prove to be a garter snake searching for its dinner. A high-pitched scream overhead from a circling hawk indicates that someone else is on the hunt for a meal. The loud chattering from a tall spruce tells another story. A nervous red squirrel protects her young as they sleep in a nearby leaf nest. Whether it be spring, summer, fall or winter, endless opportunities to view wildlife are available in Birds Hill Park. Be alert to the sights and sounds around you as you explore the park. The rewards are varied and they may consist of a glimpse of an animal or the signs it leaves behind.

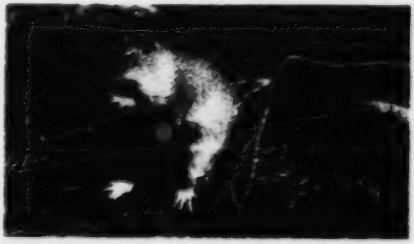
Mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians commonly seen in the park are listed below.

Mammals

In the past, wildlife seeking shelter from the harsh conditions on the open prairies found refuge here. Large mammals such as mammoths and bison were common in the area as little as 12,000 to 15,000 years ago. You might also have seen wild horses, moose, mule deer, wapiti, bears, wolves and cougars.

Today, the woods and grasslands of Birds Hill are still alive with creatures for you to see and hear. These are some of the mammals frequently seen in the park. How many of the animals can you spot on your travels through Birds Hill?

- ☐ Beaver
- ☐ Eastern Chipmunk
- ☐ Red Fox
- ☐ Franklin's Ground Squirrel
- ☐ Gray Squirrel
- ☐ Muskrat
- ☐ Red Squirrel
- ☐ Snowshoe Hare
- ☐ Striped Skunk
- ☐ Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel
- ☐ White-tailed Deer



Franklin's ground squirrels are a common site in the Birds Hill campground.

Birds

Birds Hill Provincial Park is a birder's paradise. Since the park was opened in 1967, over 200 species of birds have been sighted here. In the winter you may see a brilliant yellow evening grosbeak perched on the snow-covered branch of a Manitoba maple. The winged seed of the maple is a favourite food for grosbeaks. Black-capped chickadees and redpolls, also common winter birds, frequent bird feeders set up throughout the park in search of their favourite seeds. These feeders are set up and filled regularly by both park visitors and local bird enthusiasts. In early March the arrival of migrants such as the horned lark indicates that spring is just around the corner. During the summer you will hear the clear whistle of the indigo bunting or the low buzz-like call of the clay-coloured sparrow along many of the park trails. Fall is announced by the large number of birds that stop over on their travels south. Small flocks of juncos and warblers are a common sight along the roadways in the park. All year-round the woods and prairies of Birds Hill are alive with the colour and music of birds. Here is a checklist of the birds commonly spotted in the park.

Grebes

- ☐ Pied-billed Grebe

Ducks

- ☐ Mallard
- ☐ Northern Pintail
- ☐ Blue-winged Teal

Hawks

- ☐ Red-tailed Hawk
- ☐ Broad-winged Hawk
- ☐ Northern Harrier

Grouse

- ☐ Ruffed Grouse

Coots

- ☐ American Coot

Plovers

- ☐ Killdeer

Gulls

- ☐ Franklin's Gull
- ☐ Ring-billed Gull

Doves

- ☐ Mourning Dove

Woodpeckers

- ☐ Downy Woodpecker
- ☐ Hairy Woodpecker

Flycatchers

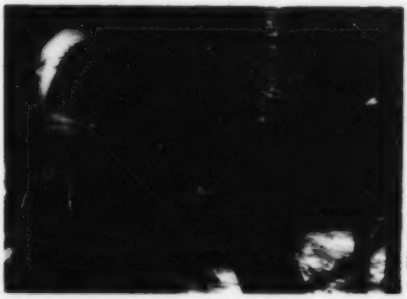
- ☐ Least Flycatcher
- ☐ Eastern Kingbird

Swallows

- [ ] Barn Swallow
- [ ] Tree Swallow

Crows and Jays

- [ ] Blue Jay
- [ ] American Crow



A. Blicque

Common year-round, black-capped chickadees enjoy seeds, berries and the occasional sunflower snack.

Chickadees

- [ ] Black-capped Chickadee

Wrens

- [ ] House Wren

Thrushes

- [ ] American Robin

Mimic Thrushes

- [ ] Gray Catbird

Vireos

- [ ] Red-eyed Vireo

Warblers

- [ ] Yellow Warbler
- [ ] Yellow-rumped Warbler
- [ ] American Redstart
- [ ] Ovenbird
- [ ] Common Yellowthroat

Sparrows

- [ ] Chipping Sparrow
- [ ] Clay-coloured Sparrow
- [ ] White-throated Sparrow
- [ ] Vesper Sparrow
- [ ] Dark-eyed Junco

Blackbirds

- [ ] Red-winged Blackbird
- [ ] Western Meadowlark
- [ ] Brewer's Blackbird
- [ ] Common Grackle
- [ ] Brown-headed Cowbird
- [ ] Northern Oriole

Finches

- [ ] Common Redpoll
- [ ] American Goldfinch
- [ ] Evening Grosbeak

Reptiles and Amphibians

The forest floor, bogs, marshes and pathways in the park provide excellent spots to catch glimpses of a variety of reptiles and amphibians. Learn to identify these small creatures by both sight and sound. The most common to the park are listed below:

Reptiles

- ☐ Red-sided Garter Snake (non-poisonous)

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Discovering wildlife such as this red-sided garter snake can be fun and educational.

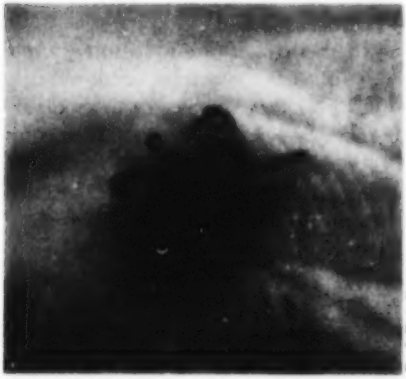
Amphibians

- ☐ American Toad
- ☐ Boreal Chorus Frog
- ☐ Gray Tree Frog
- ☐ Northern Leopard Frog
- ☐ Northern Spring Peeper
- ☐ Wood Frog

Wood-ticks

Wood-ticks are yet another creature you may encounter while visiting Birds Hill. About the size of a match head, wood-ticks are tiny, flat parasites that attach themselves to a variety of animals including humans from which they obtain the blood necessary for their growth and survival. While attached to an animal, a female tick may expand up to 100 times her original size from the blood meals while the male swells very little. Female ticks can also be recognized by a white ring about the head area while the males have several white stripes running lengthwise along the top of their flat body.

Spring is the most active season for wood-ticks and they are commonly found here in the park in May and June. Where can you pick up these ticks? Wood-ticks are found in the low vegetation near wooded areas. They hang about on the tops of grasses or shrubs and easily latch on to a warm body or pant leg as it passes by. To decrease the chance of picking up these hungry hitchhikers, the following procedure should be followed. Use insect repellent, tuck your pants into your socks or hiking boots and avoid brushing up against the undergrowth. After a spring outing in the park or much of southern Manitoba, for that matter, check yourself and pets for ticks. The best method to remove a wood-tick is to grasp it between your thumb and index finger and pull it off slowly and steadily. A jerking or twisting action may result in the tick's head being left imbedded in the skin. Disinfect the area after the tick has been removed.



Barb Batulla

Wood-ticks are most active during the spring months.

59, which skirts the western edge of Birds Hill. When the headlights of your vehicle shine on these special reflectors, a reddish glow flashes like the eyes of a predator and frightens the deer back to the safety of the park. Deer feeders, forage plots, watering sites and salt blocks placed in strategic locations, as well as an annual deer count, also aid in the management of white-tailed deer in Birds Hill Provincial Park. For further information on the park deer, be sure to visit the White-tailed Deer Self-guiding Trail just west of the campground along South Drive. Here you will have the opportunity to view deer in their natural habitat.

Deer in the Park

Birds Hill Provincial Park is home to about 250 white-tailed deer. You may have the fortune of spotting one of these secretive, elusive creatures feeding along the edge of a clearing just after sunset or early in the day. If alarmed, the deer will snort and bound away with its bushy, white tail raised and waving side to side, warning other deer of your presence.

A Deer Management Program was begun in 1982 to improve the survival of deer in the park. In the past, deer have left Birds Hill to feed on crops in neighbouring fields. Unfortunately, many of these animals never returned, as they were killed by motor vehicles while crossing the roadways. One management technique was to install reflectors along both sides of Highway

Dan Bullock

Dawn or dusk is the best time to watch for deer at this viewing tower along the park's White-tailed Deer Self-guiding Trail. Forage plots of alfalfa entice deer to remain in their park home.

CAMPING

Camping here during the spring, summer or fall will allow more time to explore and experience the park. Camping facilities range from fully-serviced sites to primitive campsites with special areas designated for group tenting. Advanced registration is available for a limited number of sites in the campground and is required in the group tenting areas. (Accommodation other than camping is not available within the park.)

The campground is in operation from spring to fall and is located along South Drive. The campground office, at the entrance to the campground, is open from 9:00 a.m. to 11 p.m. There are plenty of sites to choose from as the campground has 310 unserviced sites, 104 electrically-serviced sites, 45 fully-serviced sites, and several overflow areas. Most of these sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, while some are available for reservation through the Dial-A-Site camping program. For further information on this program contact the Park Office at 222-9151. Length of stay in the campground is limited to ten days and check-out time is 5:00 p.m. For information on campground availability, call Travel Manitoba at 942-2535 or Information Services at 945-6784.

Situated near the man-made lake, the campground is equipped with shower facilities, a beach, a bicycle trail, modern washrooms that are accessible by wheelchair, a trailer sanitation station, drinking water, playgrounds, public telephones, and an amphitheatre. Firewood is also available for purchase. The campground store and adjacent launderette are open from spring to fall. At the store you can purchase convenience items and souvenir hats or t-shirts. Hours of operation are posted at the store.

Group camping is available on a reservation basis in the group use and day camp areas in the park. The group use area is located along North Drive and is in operation from May to September. Fifteen spacious fully-serviced sites are available for tenting or picnics for groups of over 50 people.

The day camp area is near the east park entrance with seven large primitive sites for group tenting or picnics. Sites in both the group use and day camp areas may be reserved. For further information or to place a booking, call the Park Office at 222-9151.

Travel Manitoba

Camping opportunities at Birds Hill range from primitive sites in the campground to fully-serviced sites for large groups in the group use area.

THINGS TO DO IN THE PARK

There are many things to do and see in the park. Check through this list of suggestions as you plan your outing for the day.

Recreational Activities

☐ Pick a pail of wild berries.
Common edible berries found here are chokecherry, pincherry, saskatoon, wild plum, highbush cranberry and rose-hips.

Pedal along the Pine Ridge Bicycle Trail.
This 7.2-kilometre paved trail winds through the woods and around the lake. Enter the trail from the riding stable, beach parking lots or the campground.

☐ Hike, ski or snowshoe the self-guiding trails to discover the natural beauty of the park.

The 3.5-kilometre Cedar Bog Self-guiding Trail descends gently from the Aspen Parkland into a unique cedar bog. Here the tall eastern white cedars create a canopy which blocks the sunlight and creates mysterious shadows. Either walk the trail during the summer months or snowshoe along it during the winter. Brochures are available at the start of the trail.

Trailhead: North side of North Drive, 1 kilometre east of the west park entrance.
Time: 1 1/2 hours.

The 1-kilometre Bur Oak Self-guiding Trail loops through a stand of gnarled bur oaks. Signs along the trail describe the animals and plants that thrive in this area. Designed to accommodate all visitors, the parking lot is paved, the path is asphalt covered, braille text is available at the Park Office, and the adjacent picnic tables and washrooms are designed for wheelchair access. The trail also offers a more rugged 3 kilometre extension that is accessible year-round. Both loops are groomed for cross-country skiing in the winter.

Trailhead: Off of South Drive, 3 kilometres west of the campground.
Time: Short loop, 45 minutes. Long loop, 2 hours.

The 1.5-kilometre White-tailed Deer Self-guiding Trail meanders through aspen groves and across large meadows. Interpretive signs explain the biology, behaviour, habitat requirements and management of white-tailed deer in the park. A viewing tower overlooking a field of alfalfa is located

midway along the trail. The opportunity for you to see deer here is best at dawn and dusk during the winter months.
Trailhead: North side of South Drive, 0.4 kilometres west of the campground.
Time: 1 hour.

The 2-kilometre Nimowin Self-guiding Trail is a peace education facility developed in co-operation with Manitoba Educators for Social Responsibility. Winding through a number of disturbed areas and natural communities, it is a place to think about peace in our world and peace with our environment. It is open to park visitors in spring, summer and fall. Brochures are available at the begining of the trail.
Trailhead: Near the Interpretive Workshop.
Time: 45 minutes.

Explore the 30-kilometre cross-country ski/hiking trail system.
Groomed for skiing in the winter and marked for hiking in the summer, this system of trails criss-crosses through the back-country of Birds Hill. The six trails vary from 3.6 to 10 kilometres in length and are designed for novice to intermediate skiers. Shelters with wood stoves and firewood have been provided along several of the trails. Ski rentals are available at the Lazy H Ranch. For an update on winter trail conditions call Travel Manitoba at 942-2535 or Information Services at 945-6784.
Trailheads: West side of the riding stable restaurant; and off North Drive, 1 kilometre east of the Cedar Bog Self-guiding Trail, at the Chickadee Trail parking lot.

Explore Birds Hill on horseback.
Several trails in the northern natural area of the park are accessible from the Lazy H Ranch. Trail rides leave on the hour all summer long. Pony rides for young adventurers, hay rides for large groups and breakfast or steak rides are also available. Restaurant services are provided adjacent to the stable. A 3-kilometre winter riding trail is accessible from the boundary of the park along Provincial Road 206, 1 kilometre north of the east park gate.

Ride the 6-kilometre Cross-country Equestrian Course.
Located in the southeast corner of the park, this challenging course has 27 permanent jumps constructed by the Manitoba Horse Council. Access the course from the riding stable, Vernon Road (south of the park) or Zora Road (east side of the park).

Travel along the 30-kilometre network of groomed snowmobile trails.
The trails are accessible from the riding stable, Provincial Trunk Highway 59 (3 kilometres north of the east park gate) and Provincial Road 206 (1.5 kilometres north of the east park gate). Several warm-

ing huts with woodstoves are located along the trails.

Enjoy an outdoor meal at one of the many picnic areas.
Picnic areas can be found adjacent to the Pine Ridge Cemetery and at the trailheads for the self-guiding trails along both North and South Drive. Picnic shelters are available north of the beach parking lots or on either side of the scenic overlook. If you are planning a large group picnic, reservations are available in the group use and the day camp areas. Place reservations well in advance at the Park Office. Well water, privies, and stand-up barbecues or fire pits are found at all picnic sites. Bring along your own briquettes or purchase firewood in the campground.

Opportunities for recreational activities in the park vary from a leisurely hike to an exciting ride along the equestrian course.

Swim in the cool waters of the man-made lake.
There is plenty of sand and space on the east and west beaches and the camper's beach for both sunbathers and sandcastle builders. There are playgrounds nearby for the children and food concessions operate from May to September at the east and west beaches. For more information on food services call the east beach concession at 222-3702.

Points of Interest

Enjoy the scenic view of the lake and surrounding parkland from the overlook.
A lovely rock garden, picnic shelters, an interpretive sign and a scenic view of the man-made lake makes this stop a must. The overlook parking lot is located off of North Drive, 1 kilometre east of the group use area.

Visit the historic monument at the Pine Ridge Cemetery.
The monument here commemorates the Polish contingent of the de Meuron Regiment. This group arrived in 1817 to assist Lord Selkirk in establishing peace and order in the Red River colony.

Explore the site where Pope John Paul II conducted a multi-cultural celebration of faith on Sunday, September 16, 1984. Parking, a picnic shelter and a short, asphalt walkway to the Papal Site are accessible from Festival Drive.

☐ Make a brief stop at the stone horse jump built in 1967. Located on the north side of the roadway, 1.4 kilometre inside the east park gate, this stone wall was built as one of 30 jumps installed for the Equestrian Cross-country Event held here during the 1967 Pan-American Games.

☐ Visit the root cellar.
Built in 1960, this energy efficient refrigerator was used by residents to store hundreds of pounds of potatoes during the winter. Watch for the cellar tucked in the tall spruce trees south of the roadway, approximately 1 kilometre inside the east park entrance.

☐ Explore the old homestead.
A typical example of a 1930's country home, the house was completed in 1936 while the barn and granary were constructed the following year from old railway car planks. Look for the roofs of the buildings through the trees and a small walking path on the north side of South Drive, approximately 2 kilometres west of the campground.

☐ Hike or ski to the Lime Kiln.
Located mid way along the 5.8-kilometre Lime Kiln Trail, this kiln was used to burn limestone gravel from the area until 1930. The resulting quick-lime was used as a building material for whitewash, plaster, mortar and for the treatment of sewage. A warming shelter with a wood stove and firewood is also located here. The trail starts from the west side of the riding stable restaurant.

Ken Porteous

Located in the southwestern area of the park, this old homestead was built in 1936.

Special Events

☐ Attend the Winnipeg Folk Festival.
This annual July event features musical workshops, afternoon and evening concerts, children's events, an international food village and a hand-made village. Day or weekend passes are available at the entrance to the festival site in the southeastern area of the park. Plenty of parking space is available. Operations continue as usual throughout the rest of the park during the festival weekend.

Participate in a Visitor Services Program.

Visitor Services Programs are available for park visitors and school groups on a year-round basis. Amphitheatre programs, special events, guided outings, campfire programs, children's programs and winter weekends are but a sample of what is provided. Be sure to call the Park Office at 222-9151 for a schedule of events.

Watch a horse show or polo tournament.

Tournaments and shows take place on the grounds adjacent to the riding stable and at the equestrian jumping course.

Attend the variety of special events held annually in the park. Events such as walk-a-dog-a-thons, model airplane shows, windsurfing demonstrations, horse shoe tournaments and cross-country ski waxing clinics are held here throughout the year. For information on upcoming events or for an application to host your own event call the Park Office at 222-9151.

C. Archer

Be sure to attend the famous Winnipeg Folk Festival held here every July.

THINGS TO DO WITHIN 45 MINUTES OF THE PARK

After you have explored all Birds Hill Provincial Park has to offer, there is still much more to see within a 45 minute drive of the park.

- ☐ Visit the Dugald Costume Museum. Clothing more than 200 years old can be seen here. Located on P.R. 206 west at Dugald, the museum offers guided tours and a gift shop. Call 1-853-2166 for further information.

- ☐ Explore the historic sites along the River Road Heritage Parkway.

- ☐ Start at the Kenosewun Visitor Centre and Museum in Lockport, east of the Red River, accessible from Provincial Trunk Highway 44. This is an important archaeological site that reveals how the St. Andrews Rapids affected the evolution of the Native people in the area. Tours are available from mid-May to September. Picnic tables are provided near the river. The possibilities of observing white pelicans are excellent at this spot. There is also a great view of the St. Andrews Lock and Dam from here. Built in 1910, the locks enabled large boats to travel to and from Lake Winnipeg all summer long. Today, these are the only operating locks in western Canada.

- ☐ Next stop is Kennedy House, located along the Red River on the east side of River Road (Provincial Road 238). This was the residence of Captain William Kennedy, noted Arctic explorer, fur trader for the Hudson's Bay Company, and advocate of Canadian western expansion. Tour the terraced gardens and the house and then relax over tea, bannock and dainties in the glass-enclosed tea room overlooking the Red River. Kennedy House is open from mid-May to September. Call 334-2498 for hours of operation for both the museum and tea room.

- ☐ Other sites to visit along the River Road are the St. Andrew's Church and the St. Andrew's Rectory National Historic Park. This church is the oldest stone church in western Canada still used for public worship. Tours of the church are available from mid-May to early September. Examine the kneeling benches covered with bison hide and take a moment to listen to the old pipe organ. Much of the wood used to build this church was donated by the Bird family, whom Birds Hill Provincal park is named. The rectory is open for viewing from mid-May to early September. Be sure to stop at the other historic sites along the River Road.

☐ St. Peter's Church.
Another historic site along the Red River is St. Peter's (Dynevor) Church, located north of Selkirk on the east side of the river. It was here, in 1833, that the first Indian mission in western Canada was established. Chief Peguis, of the Saulteaux, worked with Reverend William Cockran, Anglican Missionary and founder of St. Andrew's Church, to develop an Indian farming settlement at St. Peter's. Peguis became a major figure in the settlement of the Red River and is buried here.

☐ Visit Lower Fort Garry National Historic Park.
This stone fort was built in 1830 by the Hudson's Bay Company. Located only 15 minutes north of the park on Provincial Trunk Highway 9, the fort offers group tours and historical period activities year-round. Call 983-3600 (Winnipeg) or 482-6843 (Selkirk) for further information and for tour reservations.

☐ Tour the Grotto at Cooks Creek.
This magnificent Ukrainian Catholic Church and Grotto located 6 kilometres east of the park on Provincial Road 212 was built by Father Philip Ruh, O.M.I. and his parishioners, who included many of the settlers from the Birds Hill area. Mass is conducted every Sunday and an annual pilgrimage to the Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes is held in mid-August. Guide services are occasionally provided on Sunday afternoons.

☐ Visit the Tyndall Stone Quarries at Garson.
Situated 20 kilometres northeast of the park, the limestone at Garson abounds in fossils and corals. Stone from these quarries has been used in the construction of the Parliament Building in Ottawa, and Manitoba's Legislative Building and Centennial Concert Hall in Winnipeg.

☐ Discover all about limestone quarries and kilns at Stonewall Quarry Park.
Located at the north end of Main Street in Stonewall, this interesting park offers an interpretive centre with displays explaining the history of limestone kilns and quarries. The park also has an outdoor amphitheatre, an artificial lake, early 1900's lime and pot kilns, hiking trails, a picnic area and a campground. For more information call 467-5354 or 467-5561.

☐ Visit another provincial park within 45 minutes of Birds Hill Provincial Park.
Grand Beach Provincial Park is 70 kilometres north of Birds Hill, just off Highway 59. One of the finest beaches in North America is found here. Several self-guiding trails are also available.
Patricia Beach Provincial Recreation Park is just 59 kilometres north of Birds Hill and only 20 minutes from Grand Beach. Patricia Beach offers the closest large sandy beach to Winnipeg.

Hyland Provincial Wayside Park, along Henderson Highway, is 17 kilometres west of Birds Hill and offers tennis courts, boat-launching access to the Red River and fishing opportunities.

On the western outskirts of Winnipeg is Beaudry Provincial Heritage Park. Beaudry features a breath taking forest and a remnant of tall-grass prairie. Hiking and cross-country skiing trails are available. You can access this park from Provincial Road 214 (Roblin Boulevard west), approximately 10 kilometres west of the Perimeter Highway (Highway 100).

St. Norbert Provincial Heritage Park is located on the southern outskirts of the city at 40 Turnbull Drive in St. Norbert. Nestled among the trees at the junction of the La Salle and Red Rivers, in summer this park offers special events and guided tours of its historical houses. Picnic facilities are available. Call the Visitor Centre at 269-5377 for more information on the park events and tours.

☐ Downhill ski or toboggan at Springhill Winter Park.
Situated on the banks of the floodway, only 8 kilometres south of Birds Hill Provincial Park, Springhill is a great place to learn to ski. Certified ski instructors, equipment rentals, warm-up shelters and a snack bar are available. Toboggan runs are also provided. For information call 224-3051.

☐ See the Red River Floodway.
The floodway, just west of the park, is a massive drainage ditch that diverts potential flood waters around the city of Winnipeg. Completed in 1968, the earth removal for this project was an enormous task, costing over 60 million dollars. Constructed in order to avoid a repeat of the disastrous 1950 flood, the floodway has protected Winnipeg to date, saving millions of dollars in potential damage.

☐ Spend an afternoon fishing at Lockport.
Fish commonly caught here are walleye, northern pike, channel catfish, black bullhead, freshwater drum, white bass and burbot. This is also an excellent spot for winter ice fishing.

☐ Explore Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area.
Approximately 34 kilometres east of Birds Hill, Oak Hammock Marsh is renowned for the spectacular number of waterfowl which stop over during migration. Artesian wells, the largest area of tall-grass prairie in the province, and an interpretive centre are also here for you to explore. A seasonal interpretive program is available. Call 945-6784 for more information.

☐ Visit the capital city of Manitoba — Winnipeg.
Just 24 kilometres south of the park, you step back into the fast pace of

city living. Interesting spots to visit are the Museum of Man and Nature, the Manitoba Children's Museum, the Centennial Centre, the Planetarium, the Assiniboine Park Zoo and Tropical House, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Royal Canadian Mint, the Fort Whyte Centre for Environmental Education, the University of Manitoba, St. Norbert Provincial Heritage Park, Riel House, Osborne Village, the Imax Theatre in Portage Place, the Pan-Am Swimming Pool, and the many city parks. For more information on these sites or personalized travel counselling, call Travel Manitoba at 945-3777 in Winnipeg or 1-800-665-0040, extension 36, toll-free.

J. Tallosi

Explore the scenic River Road Heritage Parkway and stop for refreshments at the Kennedy House, all within 45 minutes of Birds Hill Provincial Park.

PARK INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

Visitor Services Attendants conduct interpretive programs here on a year-round basis. Designed for all ages, these programs will assist you in discovering the natural and cultural history of the park, as well as providing recreational activities.

During the summer months pick up a program schedule at the campground office or check the program posters on a park bulletin board. Campfire programs, amphitheatre shows, children's programs and special events are offered weekly from mid-June to early September. Special events are also held during the winter months.

School programs are provided in the park during the spring, fall and winter. Many of the programs are designed to be guided by teachers and in-service sessions are provided to assist teachers with the planning and preparation necessary for a rewarding day in the park. Endless opportunities for education in any subject at all grade levels are available in this natural classroom.

The Visitor Services staff are available at the park office if you have any questions about the natural or cultural history of the park. If you would like information regarding the programs, call the park office at 222-9151.

C. Shea

Visitor Services staff conduct interpretive programs here year-round.

J. Tallosi

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT

Birds Hill Provincial Park is open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. all year long. In order for you to have a safe and enjoyable stay here, please observe the following park rules:

- Drive on Birds Hill's roads with care.
  Watch for joggers, cyclists, children and deer on the roads. Please keep to the posted speed limits — 60 kilometres per hour on the North and South Drives and 20 kilometres per hour in the campground. Please do not drive on grassed areas.
- Ride on the Pine Ridge Bicycle Trail with care.
  Watch for pedestrian traffic and please obey all traffic signs.
- Restrict fires to the fireplaces provided.
  Fire-rings and stand-up barbecues are provided in the campground and picnic areas. Firewood is available for purchase in the campground. Please be sure to extinguish your fire before leaving the site.
- Control your pets.
  Please keep your pets on a leash and under physical control at all times. While hiking along the park trails, kindly clean up after your pet so as not to infringe upon the enjoyment of others.
- Alcoholic beverages may be consumed only at your assigned campsite.
- Refrain from excessive noise at any time.
- Firearms are not permitted inside the park boundaries.

The beaches are staffed by Beach Patrol from mid-May to September. Hours of operation are posted at the beaches. For the safety of you and your family, please encourage children to wear bright colours, utilize the buddy system when swimming, do not use inflatable objects in the water, take regular head counts, become familiar with the location of emergency telephones and the beach patrol building, and notify the beach patrol or park patrol immediately if someone goes missing. If you are planning to bring a large group to the beach, please notify the park office. Be sure to have an adequate number of supervisors along and report to the beach patrol building upon arrival. Dogs are not allowed on the beach.

During the winter months, please ensure that you are equipped with proper clothing, equipment and high protein snacks. Be careful to stay warm and dry. Hypothermia, a lowered internal body temperature, is caused by exposure to cold air and is accelerated by damp clothing. Numb hands and feet are the

first signs of hypothermia. Watch for these signs and deal with them promptly, seeking shelter and removing wet clothing. Remember, during the winter months daylight fades quickly after 4:00 p.m.

If you observe all of these safety suggestions, your stay here should be safe and enjoyable. However, in the event of an emergency

- contact a Park Ranger or Patrol at the park office at 222-9151 (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.);
- notify the park staff at the campground office or the west gate (May to September, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.); or
- call the Oakbank R.C.M.P. at 284-5751 or 1-444-3391 or call the Operator and ask for Zenith 50,000.

If an ambulance is required call Oakbank Ambulance at 1-444-2255 or Selkirk Ambulance at 1-482-3330. The nearest hospital is Concordia Hospital at 1095 Concordia Avenue at the north-east edge of Winnipeg. Call 661-7194 for emergency services.

Contact a Park Ranger or Park Patrol if you have questions or an emergency.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you require further information regarding facilities and services provided, please contact one of the following:

Park Office: 222-9151, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday to Friday).

Lazy H Riding Stable and Restaurant: 222-1137, year-round.

Beach Concession: 222-3702, May to September.

Campground Store: 222-4715, May to September.

Campground Office: 9:00 a.m. to midnight, May to September.

The following publications, available free of charge, provide additional information on Birds Hill Provincial Park:

Summer Activities Map
Winter Activities Map
Cedar Bog Self-guiding Trail
Camper's Guide

These publications are updated regularly and will reflect changes in park facilities, programs, regulations and fees. Copies are available at the park office. Call (204) 222-9151 or write:

Department of Natural Resources
Box 183, R.R. #2
Dugald, Manitoba
R0E 0K0

Note: The information in this guide may change without further notice.